

CYCLE CHESTERFIELD



NEWSLETTER

Published quarterly.

Number 110 Autumn 2025



www.cyclechesterfield.org

affiliated to Cycling UK and Cyclenation

This newsletter is printed on 80gsm Bond made from sustainable fibres

COMMENT

This issue looks back at an excellent summer of cycling, and the cycling weather was good! Looking forwards we are hosting the revived East Midlands Cycle Forum this autumn. This issue will be my last, as I am retiring from the newsletter, but it's been a great ride for the last couple of years. Enjoy your cycling whatever and however you ride! **Jason**

If you have any contributions, articles, or feedback for the newsletter, all of which will be gratefully received, please email me via: newsletter@cyclechesterfield.org

Email update.

Our secretary sends out an email update roughly every month, if for some reason you don't receive this into your 'inbox' and would like to please contact the secretary at this address.

secretary@cyclechesterfield.org

Other local campaigning groups.

Derby Cycling Group

Derbycyclinggroup.org.uk

Cycle Sheffield

Cyclesheffield.org.uk

Ride Sheffield

www.ridesheffield.org.uk

Pedals (Nottingham)

Pedals.org.uk

Newsletter Delivery

If you would prefer your newsletter emailed out to you as opposed to being delivered by hand (bicycle) please confirm your email address via newsletter@cyclechesterfield.org

Cover image: Chesterfield Cycle Festival 2025

Secretary's Update

As we draw towards the end of the school summer holidays, I think we can all say that we've had a very warm and sunny summer which was generally ideal for cycling, though it was definitely a bit too hot at times. Our Cycle Festival in early July had everything from rain showers to 34 degrees of heat.

This was our 3rd year of Festival rides and events showcasing local cycle infrastructure and highlighting the various opportunities for cycling in and around Chesterfield. We were joined by over 130 riders on Cycle Chesterfield rides during the week and the 4 other local cycle clubs that supported us also had new riders joining them for their various more specialist rides. Many thanks to Dronfield Clarion Cycling Club, Spire Cycling Club, Bolsover and District Cycling Club and Inclusive Pedals WomenCycle2 for organising their rides. You may ask why we spend the time organising a Festival each year? We think that it's useful to raise the profile of cycling and to show that cycling is possible for virtually everyone around Chesterfield. Our success is not judged on the number of rides or events we host but whether people at the end of the Festival are more positive about cycling. It's also good to see new riders more enthusiastic and confident about cycling, continuing to cycle after the Festival.

We are currently still working through our objectives this year. We are trying to promote and to persuade local employers to become cycle friendly. It's a tough ask at the moment. Do you know any employers in Chesterfield who may want to lead the way? We have also organised a cycle audit members meeting and 4 audit rides so far and the next stage of this objective is to put a report together with some tangible options that can be actioned to improve cycling for everyone locally.

There is lots of evidence to suggest that most people want to walk, wheel or cycle more but are put off by poor or incomplete infrastructure, a perception that roads can be dangerous or a lack of knowledge and confidence in available routes and general safety. Cycling, wheeling and walking is known to be good for health, reduced pollution, safer neighbourhoods and reduced inequality. What we really need is lots more investment in creating safe, accessible and convenient routes in and around Chesterfield so that residents have a genuine choice as to how they travel. Unfortunately, Derbyshire County Council's (DCC) recent Transport budget allocation for next year provides little money for cycling.

The East Midlands Mayoral Authority and Active Travel England have a large pot of funding for active travel schemes for the region and the first allocation is for improving the journey to school, promoting safety, healthy choices and

reducing pollution and congestion around schools. This could make a real difference to pupils, parents and local residents. Maybe you know of a school that might be keen to support this initiative

We will continue to engage with councils and other organisations to make the case for cycling and wheeling and the impact it can make to people's health, wellbeing and access to facilities and jobs. We will be hosting an event that will touch upon many of these issues on 11th October. The East Midlands Cycle Forum last met prior to covid. It is a gathering of regional cycle promotion and campaign groups and some regional and national organisations. It provides an opportunity to share success stories and hear about specific issues from around the region. We have 4 speakers lined up from a number of national / regional cycling organisations, as well as short presentations by a small number of local cycle groups from the East Midlands area. It should be an interesting event with chance to meet cyclists from other towns, cities and organisations. You should all by now have had an invite to book the event through Eventbrite. There will be a short ride after the event to showcase the East West route.

We are also planning some more rides for members in September and October and details will follow by email soon. That's all for now. Hope to see you cycling into the autumn season and please feel free to attend any of our meetings, including our Christmas social which will be at Brampton Brewery in December.

Martin Farr, Secretary.



AGM 2025

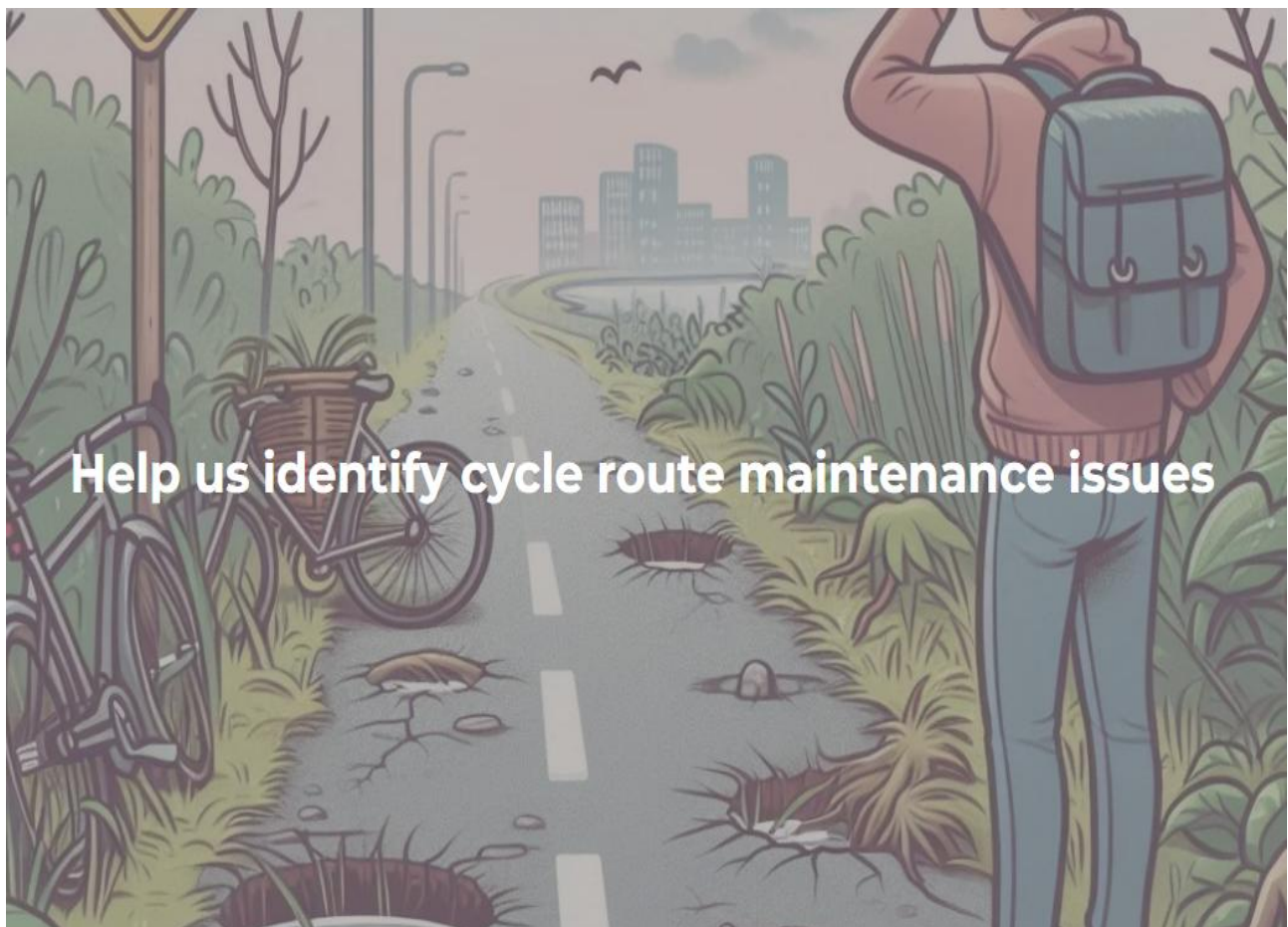
This is an early warning for our 2025 AGM which will take place on 14th October this year at St Thomas Church Centre, Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield. This is a month earlier than usual. We will be contacting you to ask about ongoing priorities prior to that date.

There will be a number of committee vacancies this year, including Newsletter and Memberships Secretary. We rely on you, our members to keep Cycle Chesterfield going and we would ask that you consider whether you could help support us by joining the Committee. Many of the roles on the Committee are fairly simple and you will be supported by other members. If you would like to know more please contact Martin at

secretary@cyclechesterfield.org

Thanks

Martin Farr, Secretary.



Alternatives to the Chesterfield Staveley Regeneration Route

Cycle Chesterfield and Transition Chesterfield have sent East Midlands Mayor, Claire Ward and other policy makers, a joint proposal on alternatives to the Chesterfield Staveley Regeneration Route (CSRR). The CSRR is a long vaunted highway between Staveley and the Sainsbury's roundabout which is proposed to open up land for housing at the former Staveley Works as well as other stated aims. However the proposal argues that not only is the CSRR not the best solution to many of the issues it is designed to address, but is also likely to make things worse or shift problems to other areas.

One of the issues for cycling is that it will cause long term disruption (during the years of construction) and permanently impact the peace and views on part of a much loved walking and cycling route along Chesterfield Canal. The road will cut across the canal in 3 places and involve diverting the canal in 2 sections.

The proposal suggests that the CSRR only extends into the development itself rather than a through route to the A61. Instead of creating more car dependency, it is suggested that more sustainable alternatives are considered based around a vision led planning approach for the new development which can provide multiple other benefits such as cleaner air, better health, reduced social inequalities while supporting economic regeneration.

The proposal includes reopening the Barrow Hill rail line for passengers or extending the South Yorkshire Supertram to Barrow Hill and Chesterfield, helping to level up 'left behind' communities and reducing congestion.

The proposal also has a number of suggestions for upgrading walking and cycling links between Barrow Hill, Staveley, Brimington and Chesterfield. These include converting Works Road (which will no longer be needed as an alternative road link is planned to Barrow Hill – though the proposal calls for a better alternative) into a walking/cycling route and better routes between the canal and river to Staveley, and through Staveley centre.

Lastly the proposal suggests a number of other measures which can reduce traffic impacts in Brimington and Staveley including redesign of the gyratory at Brimington to reduce air pollution and congestion, and complete redesign of the Morrisons Supermarket and carpark at Staveley for better walking, cycling and public transport access.

The proposal makes 4 recommendations:

- Ensure that the £2.5million ground investigation of the CSRR (recently funded by the Mayor) includes alternative routes to reduce the impact on the canal and provide better linkages to Barrow Hill.
- Assess all the possible travel options to facilitate housing and employment growth in Brimington and Staveley using a vision led planning approach which considers all the options.
- Add the Barrow Hill passenger rail reopening or train/tram option to the authority's list of priority infrastructure projects, rather than leaving it all to the South Yorkshire mayor.
- Prioritise rail, train/tram, bus and walking and cycling above the CSRR to ensure inclusive growth of the area (and ensure that the bridges and current alignment of Works Road are retained for walking and cycling).

Download the report via: <https://www.cyclechesterfield.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Briefing-on-alternatives-to-the-CSRR-final-250430.pdf>, or via the Cycle Chesterfield website.

Lisa Hopkinson



Inclusive Pedals

Enabling everyone to cycle



A social enterprise in Chesterfield running various cycling projects -
www.inclusivepedals.org.uk.

From April until October our monthly adapted cycling sessions in the Queen's Park are once again very busy. Our fleet of 12 three and four wheeled cycles are in constant use for the two-hour session usually on the first Friday of the month.

We're always looking for volunteers to help at these events, mainly to cycle the 'bikes' from the storage containers in the Queen's Park car park to the cricket pitch and back (starting just before 1.00pm and finishing at 3.00pm). If you can offer to help, please contact us by email info@inclusivepedals.org.uk or pop along to a session.

Another of our projects which is volunteer led is Cycling Without Age. Our volunteer riders currently visit two care homes each week on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Cycling the Triobikes from the Queen's Park. There is always an 'outrider' on a standard bike to help with road crossings etc. The Triobikes have electric assistance and are very easy to ride. If you would like to help with these rewarding sessions, please contact cwa@inclusivepedals.org.uk. You don't have to commit to every session, with our growing number of volunteers you can dip in and out as you wish.

Our regular monthly **Dr Bike workshops** provide free repairs while you wait:

Langer Field pavilion on 1st Wednesday of the month 4.00pm until 6.00pm

Queen's Park car park 1st Saturday on the month, March to October 9.30am until 1.00pm, November to February 10.30am until 12.30pm.

Hollingwood Hub 2nd Sunday of the month until October, midday until 3.00pm.

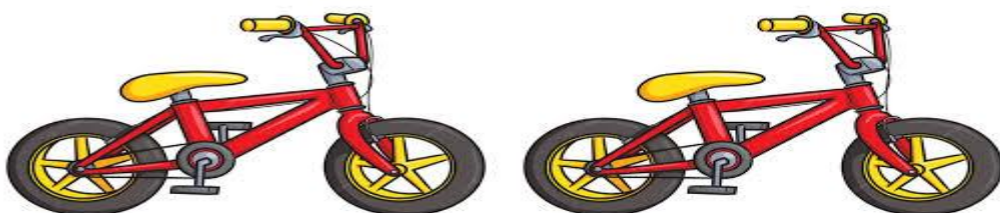
Don't forget our women's group as part of our Community Cycle Club. **'Women Cycle Too'** organise regular rides.

BEN VERNON CHARITY RIDE 2025

This year's ride involved 27 riders on the 13-mile route and seven for the family ride for parents and young children. Nigel Vernon thanks all the riders who took part, the volunteers, and the wider public for their support for their generous donations, together with the Vicar Lane Management team who hosted the event again this year, which was in memory of son, Ben. The charity ride was also scheduled as the last events in this year's weeklong cycle festival. So far to date the event has raised 1,735.00 for Cancer Research UK, and donations can still be made via the Cancer Research UK fundraise page: fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/the-ben-vernon-charity-ride



Riders from the 13-mile ride take a breather in Calow.



Chair's Chat: Alistair Meikle

East Midland Cycle Forum, long term members will no doubt recall these annual meetings which started back in 2006 with the first meeting in Derby. Until 2019 the annual meetings rotated between Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, Lincoln and ourselves but Covid put a stop to them! It seems to have fallen to Cycle Chesterfield to start the meetings again and all our current members will have received an email about it. We already have bookings from many representatives from local campaigning groups and other organisations plus we'll have speakers from Cycling UK, Sustrans and Active Travel England. The event will commence at 10.30am at the St Thomas Centre in Brampton. Speakers in the morning followed by lunch giving an opportunity to mingle. Then a short ride showcasing local infrastructure.

Many arriving from other areas will be coming by train so there will be a led ride from the railway station to the event and the ride in the afternoon will finish back at the railway station.

Do come along, anyone interested in getting better infrastructure for cycling and wanting to find out what is happening in other East Midland towns and cities will find it interesting.

On a more depressing mode we recently found out the County Councils proposed spending on cycling for the financial year - just £20,000 for cycle route maintenance, £30,000 for cycle route development and £500,000 for the key cycle network. These amounts are for the whole of Derbyshire so don't expect to see much new infrastructure! To put that into perspective there is a transport budget of £41M.

I recently did another of my irregular trips by train and Brompton to see friends on the south coast. I stopped to have lunch on a bench on the Embankment whilst using Cycle Superhighway 6 from St Pancras to Waterloo and as usual there were a huge number of people cycling along there. On arrival at Portsmouth Harbour I use the Gosport ferry (foot passengers and cycles only) and one side of the ferry is reserved for cycles and always well used. Met friend also on Brompton for late afternoon coffee and cake and then the last few miles to their house for a few days before returning the same way.

Embankment segregated cycle way



Cycles on the Gosport ferry



Planning: Alistair Meikle, Chair

Planning: Four applications this quarter of interest.

1, Converting the old Marks and Spencer store in the town centre to three separate retail units on the ground floor facing the open market and converting the upper floors into 43 apartments accessed from Knifsmithgate. Obviously no car parking provided but cycle parking in a room just off the entrance to accommodate 50 cycles! Bringing the building back into use is obviously desirable but we commented that having to negotiate two doors to get into the cycle storage wasn't ideal. We have asked for an amendment to make access easier.

2, Bent Lane Staveley, an application to build 200 houses on land off Bent Lane up to near the proposed extension of the Chesterfield canal. We are still exploring what comments to make about this development but there is an existing footpath from the development site onto Bellhouse Lane. In the proposal for the extension of the canal there will be a new bridge over the canal at the end of Bellhouse Lane which would give residents of this and existing housing access to the Trans Pennine Trail. As well as that connection the footway alongside the A619 in Lowgates is used by lots of children walking and cycling to access Norbriggs primary and Netherthorpe secondary. We suggest this would benefit from being widened and creating a shared or segregated path. As many of you will know Netherthorpe School starting and ending times causes chaos on the A619 so one of our members has suggested that a new entrance to the school could be created opposite Bent Lane with cycle and pedestrian crossings.

3, Back to the town centre, there is a proposal to turn the old 'Wilko' building into retail units and 70 'apart hotel' units. The hotel would have a mixture of one and two bedroom units. Apart Hotels are quite popular in many towns and cities offering a short term stay with your own facilities (similar to Air BnB). There is no car parking provided other than one 'disabled' space. There is provision for 14 cycles to be parked.

4, Lastly and application for a Starbucks 'drive through' off Chatsworth Road. This is proposed on the land at the side of Mill Lane and around the Tap Room public house. The pub is to be retained but two new retail units built in place of the unoccupied houses at the side of it. The Starbucks is to be built on the land beside the river with associated car parking. Much is made of the cycle routes nearby ignoring the fact that Chatsworth Road isn't very pleasant to cycle along near the site! However there are lots of cycle parking stands proposed and an acknowledgement that opening up Mill Lane through the Walton Works site would provide a useful cycle link in the future.

Cycling Without Age

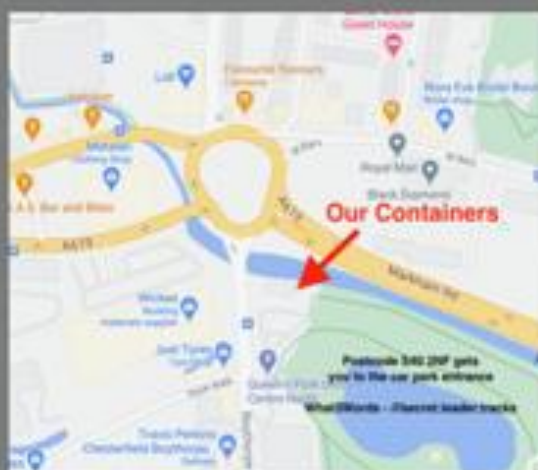


Could you be one of our volunteer 'pilots'?

Come and have a chat to find out more and try out our electrically assisted 'Triobikes'.

GET IN TOUCH AND COME AND MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS, FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT AND TRY OUT A RIDE ON A TRIOBIKE

QUEEN'S PARK NORTH CAR PARK



Cycling Without Age is a social inclusion project and in Chesterfield we have two Triobikes and do regular rides from two local care homes but we have other care homes wanting to join the project but need more volunteer 'pilots' to join our current team.

www.inclusivepedals.org.uk

info@inclusivepedals.org.uk

 [@inclusivepedals](https://www.facebook.com/inclusivepedals)

0771 333 4635

Find us with the Dr Bike workshop, car park entrance S40 2NF or What3Words ///secret.leader.tracks

Promote Cycle Chesterfield this Autumn (or get your Christmas presents sorted early!)

Ethical T shirt £12.60/ Standard T shirt £8.50/ Standard polo shirt £12



We would anticipate that if we bulk purchase again (5+ items) the cost per item would be less.

If you are interested in owning a Cycle Chesterfield T shirt or polo shirt, then please send your expression of interest to Martin at **secretary@cyclechesterfield.org**

A range of colours and sizes are available.

Cycle Chesterfield also have small badges available free for members and supporters.

Martin Farr, Secretary.



Regular Local Cycling Events.

Dr Bike: Facebook - ChesterfieldDrBike or www.inclusivepedals.org.uk

1st Saturday of the month March to October 9.30am until 1.00pm. Queen's Park north car park (look for the gazebo near the miniature railway crossing). October to March 10.30 until 12.30pm. Checks, adjustments, and repairs. Also, in Langer Field pavilion on 1st Wed on the month 4.00pm until 6.00pm (but check for details). There is no charge for parts or labour, donations always welcome!



Inclusive Pedals are running a new community cycle club women only rides with the support of Cycling UK. The rides will be led by their director Sharon and Cycling Without Age volunteer Bex. See social media for details and www.inclusivepedals.org.uk.

Friday Night Ride: Facebook - ChesterfieldFNR

First Friday of the month May until September, usually with a theme. Leaving from the Town Hall steps 6.30pm and finish around 8.00pm. Get in touch if you want to lead a ride or have an idea for a ride route/ destination. When confirmed, rides will be advertised on the Cycle Chesterfield social media.

Spire Cycling Club: chesterfieldspirecycling.co.uk

Inclusive Pedals: www.inclusivepedals.org.uk

Amongst other activities adapted cycling taster sessions on the 1st Friday of the month March to October between 1.00pm and 3.00pm in the Queen's Park using fleet of trikes. 2 seaters, wheelchair carrying trike and hand cycles.

Breeze rides: <https://letsride.co.uk/rides/breeze-around-clumber-park>. 'Join us for a gentle off road ride around the beautiful Clumber Park. Each month we will take a different route and explore different areas of the park. There are woodland trails, heathland and cycle tracks of various surfaces. Some of these become very muddy in wet weather so off road tyres are a must between October and March. Most of our routes will be off road and traffic free. There will be an occasional road crossing or short section to get to the next trail. There are some hills but we keep these to a minimum. First-timers welcome! The rides are always on the first Saturday of the month and from Saturday 2 March 10.10 am through to Saturday 7th December 2024. Women only.

Cycle Chesterfield Rides: organised on an ad hoc basis with a theme. Keep an eye on social media for details.

Support Cycle Chesterfield

Meetings are currently usually being held on the second Tuesday of each month from 7.30pm with a virtual and in person rolling programme. Check social media. All welcome to attend.

To report road faults, telephone Derbyshire County Council on 0845 605 8058

Please consider joining Cycle Chesterfield online at

www.cyclechesterfield.org

or 'manually' with this form:

- - - - -

Membership Form

Full Name Tel

.....

Address

.....

Email

.....

Membership Type (please tick)

Adult, £5[]

Family, £10*[]

Unwaged, £2.50[]

Under 18. £1 []

Optional donations welcome [£]

* Family membership includes up to 2 adults and all children under 18 living at the same address. Please give names and ages of all children below.

Please send this form together with a cheque payable to: 'Cycle Chesterfield' Membership Secretary, C/O 4 Inkerman Cottages, Ashgate, Chesterfield S40 4BP

NB. These details will be stored electronically.